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August, by the 11th there were sixty-eight flowers expanded, all facing exactly southeast on opening; but on the evening of this day, three were found which had changed around to northeast, with a slight tendency up from the horizon. On the 14th, there were seventy-three flowers open, twenty-one of which faced northeast. On examining the matter carefully, the inclination to the north was found to be due to a slight spiral or uncoiling growth during the advance from the horizontal rest to the erect position. All do not do this, but uncurve rather than uncoil. While this accounted for the northward advance, often as much as ninety degrees in a number of flowers, it still left the reason for the original facing of the flower to the southeast, among the many problems of plant-life yet to be solved. He referred to the several reasons offered in explanation of polarity in the leaves of the compass-plant, pointing out the unsatisfactory character of all of them.

AUGUST 22, 1882.

The President, DR. LEIDY, in the chair.

Ten persons present.

AUGUST 29, 1882.

The President, DR. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-three persons present.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1882.

The President, DR. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

A paper entitled "Conchologia Hongkongensis," by T. W. Eastlake, was presented for publication.

Vitality of Fresh-water Polyps.—Dr. H. ALLEN called attention to tenacity of life as exhibited in a fresh-water polyzoon (*Plumatella vesicularia*, Leidy). The leaf of the lily on which the colony had fixed itself, had been, by accident, removed from the water of the aquarium, and had been exposed for sixteen hours to the air. The animals had apparently become dry, and the colony itself barely visible to the unaided eye. Upon being again immersed (in water that chanced to be impregnated with iron-rust), the animals revived and flourished for two weeks, at the end of which time they perished from the effects of the decay of the leaf on

which they were growing. The following facts were thought to be of interest in this connection. First, that in these animals, relatively high in organization, aeration may go on for a number of hours by means of the retracted tentacles in the small amount of water contained within the cells. Second, that the presence of oxide of iron in the water does not interfere with the growth of the animals. And third, that the genus *Plumatella* may be found to resemble other mollusk-like creatures not only in their plan of organization, but in their habits of sustaining life for long periods after removal of the animals from water. The last-named fact may possibly enter into questions of geographical distribution of this and allied forms.

On Balanus, etc., at Bass Rocks, Mass.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that the Barnacle, *Balanus balanoides*, of which he presented a series of specimens from Bass Rocks, Gloucester Co., Mass., is found everywhere in the greatest profusion covering the rocks, between tides, on our eastern coast. It is also common on many other more or less fixed objects, such as shells of dead or living mollusks, lobsters and crabs, old wrecks of vessels, etc. The specimens presented are interesting from their exhibiting a remarkable variation in form, mainly due to the difference in the extent of room in which they grow. In general when isolated or with ample space, the shells are comparatively broad and low, and narrowed from their base of attachment to the aperture; or they are in the shape of short truncated cones, with the breadth as great or greater than the length. When crowded more or less close together, they assume a longer, narrower, cylindrical form, expanding towards the mouth; and thus they may become three or four times the length of the breadth, with the shape of a tubular corolla of a flower. They may be straight, variably curved and compressed. The series of specimens presented exhibit the following proportionate measurements :—

Height.	Breadth near the base—expanding to — and then contracting to the mouth.		
27 mm.	3		7
27	4.5		8
26	3		8
26	6		9
26	6		8
25	2		6
21	7		9
20	5		12
27	6	9	8
24	8	9	8
23	9	11	9
19	7	10	8